

# BE CONVINCING!

## PERSUASIVE WRITING

*Students practice writing to persuade*

### Zone In Free Write

1. Students write as many words as possible in 1 minute.
2. Write on the board the target number of words for the group (10 times the number of students). Students don't have to worry about spelling—just quantity and speed.
3. Give the keyword SMOKE. Say GO; time 1 minute. STOP.
4. Students count their words. Add everyone's total to get the total for the group. Did the group make the goal? Ask for volunteers to read their lists.

### Topic Writing to persuade

(Materials: **Tobacco and Smoking Information Sheet ♦♦**)

### Introduction

**Ask:** What makes an argument convincing to you?

*Possible answers: the speaker uses facts or information; the argument is presented strongly; you can relate to the information or what is said.*

**Explain:** Often you need to persuade, or convince with your writing. This is called "persuasive writing." You may need to persuade for or against something. Or you may need to convince someone that your point of view or opinion is correct.

### Activity

Students will be persuading others about the value or harm of tobacco.

Distribute **Tobacco and Smoking Information Sheet ♦♦**.

**Tell students:** Skim, and decide whether they want to:

- (a) persuade people to use tobacco.
- (b) persuade people not to use tobacco.
- (c) persuade people that tobacco is valuable.

Students then select sentences to make a paragraph to make the case. They may add sentences of their own.

Ask for a volunteer from each point of view to read his/her paragraph.  
If no one volunteers, or if one point of view isn't covered, ask students to give two sentences to support (A). Give two to support (B). Give two to support (C).

*Answers:*

- |      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. C | 2. A | 3. A | 4. B | 5. B  |
| 6. A | 7. B | 8. C | 9. A | 10. B |

## Wrap up

Ask for a show of hands of who supports (A), (B) and (C).

**Ask:** If an assignment or test asks for a persuasive essay, what will you do?

*Answer: collect information that supports the argument; state the position you're going to take, then give the information to back it up.*



CLINIC 22 HANDOUT

# TOBACCO AND SMOKING INFORMATION SHEET

## Purpose

Read each sentence below. Decide what the sentence is trying to do.  
Write (A), (B), or (C) next to each statement.

- A) To persuade people to use tobacco
- B) To persuade people not to use tobacco
- C) To persuade people that tobacco is valuable

## Statements

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Tobacco farming is a major source of income for many farmers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Smoking helps people relax.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Smoking makes a person look older.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Smoking shortens your life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Smoking makes your teeth yellow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. A lot of famous people smoke.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Second-hand smoke is dangerous to everybody.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Farmers can grow tobacco on land that is not used for other crops.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Smoking gives people something to do with their hands.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Smoking causes lung disease.